



# Economic Development Newsletter

DEER PARK, TEXAS

*"Business News You Can Use"*

February 2011 • VOL. 7



## **Firefighting Brothers Bring Subs to Deer Park**

Firehouse Subs has over 390 locations throughout the U.S., but they can count one more soon to be located at 3717 Center Street. Construction of the 2,500 square foot restaurant is expected to be complete by summer 2011. Since 1994, the former firefighter brothers Robin and Chris Sorensen have been serving award winning hot subs and earning national recognition. They were even named "Company of the Year" by KPMG in 2006. The restaurant will be located in the new Shoppes at Town Square retail center, soon to be under construction. The project is Phase II of a master retail development by Rob Johnson Interests. Phase I is home to Bullritos, Anytime Fitness, Edward Jones, Wingstop and Dream Nails (and soon to welcome T-Mobile, making the center 100% occupied). Please visit [www.firehousesubs.com](http://www.firehousesubs.com) or contact Rob Johnson Interests at (713) 957-2552 extension 110.



## **New Independent Pharmacy**

Deer Park Pharmacy recently opened at 2502 Center Street. This independent pharmacy is owned by Pharmacist John Garcia and his wife Patty, who also own two other Deer Park businesses; Robert's Jug & Muffin and Classy & Sassy Boutique. Their pharmacy was previously located in League City for several years, but they moved it to Deer Park because they like our business climate. They even plan to open a nutritional "Smoothie" bar in the next few months. The pharmacy accepts most insurance plans, worker's comp, Medicare and Medicaid, plus provides free delivery to Deer Park seniors. You can contact them at (281) 844-8123.

## **McDonalds to Close for Major Renovation**

McDonalds Restaurant at 1305 Center Street (Center @ 13<sup>th</sup> Street) will close in March for approximately 100 days. The store will be completely remodeled to include a spacious lobby, double-drive-through lanes plus significantly more seating area. The store will no longer have a play area. Business has significantly grown since the store first opened in 1992 and their store manager said this renovation is about 10 years overdue.





### **What's Moving Next Door to Murphy's Deli?**

ExperTox is expanding into 3,100 square feet at 1430 Center Street (next door to Murphy's Deli). This forensic toxicology laboratory is a woman-owned laboratory that started at Baylor College of Medicine and moved to Deer Park in 2000. Its first major project was for CAND0, testing women with breast implants who became ill for no apparent reason. ExperTox's study proved these women were afflicted with platinum poisoning and the findings were published by the FDA – leading to more stringent implant product disclosures. The lab offers a variety of services including drug tests, poison and toxin tests, and industry exposure tests. In 2009 and 2010, ExperTox was twice awarded the "Winner of Distinction" award by the Better Business Bureau, HBJ's Enterprise Champions Award, HBJ's Fast 100 Award and the Business Excellence Award from the Associated Builders & Contractors. ExperTox will continue to house their healthcare services at 1803 Center Street – the original location. For more information, visit [expertox.com](http://expertox.com).

### **The Pilots Dock in Deer Park**

Deer Park welcomes the Houston Pilots Association to Clay Development's Deerwood Glen Business Park on Highway 225. Their association's headquarters is now located in this newly constructed 18,000 square foot building and they bring 107 new employees to Deer Park. The Pilots are the collective individuals who navigate the arrival and departure of ships through the Port of Houston, one of the busiest seaports in the country. Operating in the tricky waters of the Gulf of Mexico, the Houston Pilots' team has skillfully guided sea vessels and cargo ships in and out of the port around the clock for the past 85 years. For more information, visit them at [www.houston-pilots.com](http://www.houston-pilots.com).



### **30 Years for Deer Park Rentals**

Wallace Anderson first opened Deer Park Rentals at 1904 Center Street in 1980. His strategy was to provide "outstanding service" to his customers. Thirty years later, the business is still flourishing under the leadership of his sons, Rick and Hal, because the level of service is still top priority. Deer Park Rentals provides equipment rental to residential, commercial and industrial customers. Whether it is a chainsaw, post-hole digger, or a welding machine, you can count on a great experience backed by thirty years of consistent outstanding service. Congratulations to Rick and Hal for continuing their father's vision and we look forward to the next thirty years!

### **Retail Center Gets New Owner**

Joe Ciranni has purchased the retail center located in the 4500 block of Center Street (home to Ed's Flower Cottage, Lidia's Draperies, RPAC Dance and Classy & Sassy Boutique). Joe has owned another Deer Park retail shopping center for the past 30 years, which is located in the 4200 block of Center Street (former home to Joe's Meat Block and current home to Hair Palace and Happy Nails). The real estate transaction was handled by Deer Park's own Grisham & Associates.

### **Construction on Underwood**

The large building you see being constructed at 4000 Underwood belongs to Mistras Group, Inc., which is relocating to the Deer Park Distribution Center from a Pasadena location. Mistras provides various inspection, nondestructive testing and engineering services to the refining, petrochemical, utility and construction industries in the Gulf Coast area. The company is bringing 25 new employees to Deer Park. The building should be completed by late summer 2011. Their website is [www.mistrasgroup.com](http://www.mistrasgroup.com).



### **Aqua Solutions Expands**

For the past 40 years, Aqua Solutions has been doing business at 6913 Highway 225. Business has been so good that they have (again) outgrown their facility, resulting in president Tom Bedford deciding to add an 8,000 square foot warehouse to the current 30,000 square foot facility. Aqua Solutions supplies quality laboratory solutions and chemicals to industries all over the world and employs 75 people. You can find their website at [www.aquasolutions.org](http://www.aquasolutions.org).



### **Xilantros Turns "3"**

Congratulations to Xilantro's restaurant who celebrates their 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary at 3102 Center Street in Deer Park. Chef Antonio Morquecho and his family own and operate this restaurant that is best described as a unique Latin American cuisine with a touch of the Caribbean, South America and Mexico. Chef Morquecho previously worked for over 20 years in some of the best restaurants in New York and Houston, but opened Xilantro's (originally named The Downtown Eatery) because he wanted to bring something different to the community where he lived. Some of the more requested dishes include the Caribbean Chicken Salad, Chicken Enchiladas, Pecan-Crusted Flounder and their homemade plantain chips. Deer Park congratulates Chef Morquecho's vision and appreciates his delicious talent. Visit their website at [www.xilantros.com](http://www.xilantros.com).

### **Shell Continues Commitment to Deer Park with Fun Run**

Shell Deer Park will sponsor the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Strides for Schools Fun Run on April 9<sup>th</sup>, which is a fun event for all ages. Last year's highly successful event drew over 500 participants and raised \$23,250 for the Deer Park Education Foundation. Shell Deer Park presented the event as a gift to the Deer Park community in 2009 during the company's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Thank you, Shell Deer Park, for all that you do in our community. Email [scc-shell-dpk-fun-run@shell.com](mailto:scc-shell-dpk-fun-run@shell.com) or visit the "Media Center" at [www.shell.us/home/content/usa/aboutshell/projects\\_locations/deerpark](http://www.shell.us/home/content/usa/aboutshell/projects_locations/deerpark).



### **Sister Companies Move to Deer Park**

Two sister companies have relocated into a single facility at 5110 Railroad, bringing 50 new employees to Deer Park. Seal-Tech Machine is relocating from their Pasadena facility and Encompas is coming from their former Houston location. Both companies are involved in the leak detection and repair industry. The reason for the move was to be closer to their client base and have room to grow. Learn more at [www.seal-tech.com](http://www.seal-tech.com) or [www.encompliance.com](http://www.encompliance.com).

### **German Company Opens First US Location in Deer Park**

Zwick Valves has opened their first U.S. distribution center at 2552 Underwood Road. The company purchased a 35,000 square foot warehouse and brings 5 new employees to Deer Park. Based in Germany for the past 30 years, the name Zwick has been synonymous for quality in the fields of industrial valves and mechanical engineering. Visit their website at [www.zwick-valves.com](http://www.zwick-valves.com).



### **Bits & Pieces**

- Exports in Houston are up 26.1% from same period in 2009.
- Imports in Houston are up 27.8% from same period in 2009.
- Houston's trade industry is up 27.1% from the same period in 2009.
- Houston is the third fastest growing customs district among the five busiest in the nation.

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### ***Thank you for reading!***

This publication helps our community stay current on what is happening in the business community. Subscribers to this electronic newsletter receive quarterly publications on general business topics of interest. To subscribe or submit comments, please email Debbie Westbeld at [dwestbeld@deerparktx.org](mailto:dwestbeld@deerparktx.org).

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